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Speech of Lawyer Brief,

To his Lordship, and the Gentlemen of the Jury.

My Lord, and Gentlemen of the Jury,

THERE are a set of men in the world, of such a tedious, tiresome, trifling, troublesome habitude, temper, and disposition of mind, that they perplex, confound, entangle, and puzzle every circumstance in every cause which they undertake to protect, defend, and justify. Instead of coming to the point, matter, business, or debate, they deviate, vary, waver, and fly off therefrom. When we expect truth, satisfaction, conviction, and decision, we find, perceive, observe, and remark, nothing but uncertainty, ambiguity, doubtfulness, and difficulty.

This, my Lord, I humbly apprehend, conceive, think, presume, and surmise, is owing to tediousness and prolixity; the nature and extent of which, I shall consider, weigh, examine, expiscate, and scrutinize.

In the first place, then, I shall shew, prove and demonstrate, the nature of tediousness and prolixity, by shewing, proving, and demonstrating, that there is nothing so unnatural; for the business of a tongue, utterance, speech, or language, is to come to the point, argument, contemplation, or question, at once, point blank, slap dash, and concisely, without any prevarication, equivocation, retardation, or circumbendibus whatsoever.

And now, in the second, succeeding, following place, point, and preliminary, I come to promulgate the genius of tediousness and prolixity; which is done, effected, performed, and brought about, by manifesting that they have no genius at all; and so far

from any men of genius making use of them, none but your egregious, absurd, ridiculous dolts, dunderheads, & blockheads, ever admit, acknowledge, receive, or embrace, any such notions, ideas, maxims, principles, or tenets.

Thirdly, my Lord, I beg leave, according to order, form, series, and succession, to animadvert upon the extent of tediousness and prolixity; and this is managed by demonstrating, that it is infinite, & without bounds, and, consequently, can have no extent at all.

And now, my Lord, I will open the cause, spring, origin, fountain, rise, and foundation of these vices, which is tautology; that is, the speaking, saying, delivering, uttering, pronouncing, divulging, declaring, remarking, observing, repeating, or expressing, the same identical, individual thing, an hundred, and an hundred, and an hundred, & an hundred, hundred, hundred times over.

And now, my Lord, I beg leave, pardon, permission, and sufferance, to lay down only six-and-fifty particulars; each particular, my Lord, shall consist of only seventy-two divisions; every division shall comprehend, contain, and consist of only eighty-two subdivisions; every subdivision shall be concluded with the six-and-fortieth article; and every article shall consume, expend, and cost, no more than an hour and a half.

Here the Court was out of all manner of patience; and the Judge, with great indignation, put a period to a discourse, which, if the Lawyer's tongue had been immortal, might have lasted to all eternity!!!